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(54)

A M E N D E D   C L A I M S

1. A unit (1) for providing messages emanating from a remote station (2) to a user, comprising a transponder section (10) for communicating with the remote station (2) by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section (30), wherein the transponder section (10) includes means (19) for storing an identification code, means (16) that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station (2) to emit an identification signal bearing the identification code, means (16) that are responsive to incoming data signals including an address code, which may be the same as or derived from the identification code, and means (20) for providing the incoming data to the data processing section (30), and wherein the data processing section (30) includes means for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user of the unit (1), characterized in that the unit (1) further comprises means (40) responsive to the audio output to generate a modulated signal (41) for emitting externally of the unit (1).

2. The unit according to claim 1, wherein the unit (1) is contained within a housing including one or more batteries (22, 39) for powering the transponder section (10) and the data processing section (30).

3. A unit (1) for providing messages emanating from a remote station (2) to a user, comprising a transponder section (10) for communicating with the remote station (2) by a wireless mode of communication, and a data processing section (30), wherein the transponder section (10) includes means (19) for storing an identification code, means (16) that are responsive to an interrogation signal from the remote station (2) to emit an identification

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signal bearing the identification code, means (16) that  
are responsive to incoming data signals including an  
address code, which may be the same as or derived from the  
identification code, and means (20) for providing the  
incoming data to the data processing section (30), and  
wherein the data processing section (30) includes means  
for providing an audio and/or visual output for the user  
of the unit (1), characterized in that the unit (1) is  
contained within a housing including one or more  
batteries (22, 39) for powering the transponder section  
(10) and the data processing section (30).

4. The unit according to claim 3, wherein the unit (1)  
further comprises means (40) responsive to the audio  
output to generate a modulated signal (41) for emitting  
externally of the unit (1).

5. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the means for providing an audio and/or visual  
output at least includes means (36) for providing an aural  
output.

6. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims  
including means (46) for receiving an input from a user  
and to initiate a signal from the transponder section (10)  
for communicating the user input to the remote  
station (2).

7. The unit according to claim 6 further comprising a  
keypad or keyboard (48) for generating the user input.

8. The unit according to any one of the preceding claims  
further comprising means for linking it to an external  
device, which external device is operable by the user to  
generate inputs to the unit (1).

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